

# University of Findlay Japanese Program

## Newsletter Winter 2020

フィンドレー大学日本語プログラム  
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### Adventures in Japan

In November of 2019, I participated in a National Japanese speech contest called JLive-Talk hosted by George Washington University in Washington DC. I received 2nd place in the Beginner category and I also received the Kakehashi Award from the Embassy of Japan. The Kakehashi Award gave me admission into the Kakehashi Project which is a free 9 day trip in Japan to experience Japanese culture and learn about Japan's history. Nine other college students from universities all around America went with me. During the trip we went to various temples, shrines, history museums, and a couple of Universities so we could talk and interact with Japanese students. For three days of the trip, we stayed with a host family in Yonezawa City in Yamagata Prefecture. Staying at my host family's home was my favorite thing during the trip. During the trip, especially while in my host family's home, I was reminded how important learning about the culture is in order to communicate effectively and correctly. I realized that not only do I need to study the Japanese language, but I also need to learn more about Japan's culture, history, and even

politics, so that I can effectively communicate with Japanese people. Because of this, my goals while studying abroad in Fukui this semester is to take the opportunity of being there to learn more about Japan's history and politics, and to pay close attention to their culture so that I can learn as much about Japan and the people there as possible.

Alexzander Ciminillo,

3rd Year Japanese, Japanese



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## Japanese Cooking Demonstration

Hi! This is Natsumi. I am an exchange student from Japan. I have been here since last Fall semester. Today, I would like to share my new experience: Cooking Demonstration in University of Findlay!

First of all, let me introduce what Cooking Demonstration is. Once a month, this event is held by Buford Center which supports international students like me so kindly and gives us many opportunities. As international students, we get chance to share our own culture and as domestic students or staff in university, they can get opportunity to experience various culture.



In my Cooking Demonstration, I made Japanese Curry and *Okonomiyaki*. I can imagine many people are wondering “What is *Okonomiyaki*...?” Do you have any ideas what *Okonomiyaki* is? When Japanese people explain *Okonomiyaki*, people usually explain, “This looks like a pancake, but is not too sweet. It’s salty.” More accurately, *Okonomiyaki* is a pan-fried dish that is made up of cabbage. It can have bacon and if people want seafood style, it still should work. People can put special sauce, mayo and toppings, but people can choose not to put all toppings. This style reflects dish’s name; “*okonomi*” means, “It is up to you”.

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Did you get any ideas for *Okonomiyaki*? Well, if you cannot, you should try it! I attached some photos from my Cooking Demonstration and those show *Okonomiyaki* or Japanese Curry. Those could give you some ideas about these two dishes visually. Besides, Japanese curry is a little bit different from any kind of curry around the world, especially in taste itself.

On Cooking Demonstration, twenty people came to join this event in Buford Center. Actually, those people came from different countries! For example, there were people from Ecuador, India, Nigeria, the United States and Japan. I was so surprised what



diversity we had at the same time. Since it was my first time to do something in public, I was a little bit nervous to conduct this event by myself. However, luckily, I got a lot of support from Buford Center and people who came to those events. For instance, helping to cook dishes, asking the participants’ questions about my culture and so on. These made me feel relaxed and I really enjoyed interacting with people and cook!

Through this special experience, I got mainly three points. First, I realized again how interesting my own culture is. For me or other Japanese people, Japanese Curry and

*Okonomiyaki* are not big special food. We can have those dishes easily in Japan. However, situation could be changed. People from other countries have never had typical Japanese food except *Sushi*. I also have heard that there is no food like Japanese one around the world. I am proud of my own traditional cuisines because it is loved all over the world. Second, I realized I am surrounded by tons of various cultures although I stay in only one country. As I mentioned in previous paragraphs, there are many people from different countries in this University of Findlay. I can make connections among various cultures and those make me excited to get information about new

cultures. Lastly, sharing own culture is not easy for people who are not familiar, but it is such a great experience to understand my own culture deeply. I would like to continue sharing my culture and absorbing other interesting cultures!

Thank you so much for reading! I hope I will see you again in this newspaper!  
Bye ☺

*Natsumi Watanabe,  
Japanese exchange student*



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About 80 students from Dublin Coffman, Dublin Jerome, Dublin Scioto, Findlay, and Marysville High Schools visited the University of Findlay on October 15, 2019. They had an opportunity to use their Japanese skills as they joined Japanese exchange students at Findlay to participate in several enjoyable activities. Thank you very much for your participation!



New Year's Day is the biggest celebration of the year in Japan. The Japanese Program at UF, where Japanese language learners and Japanese international exchange students always have fun together, celebrated the New Year. We enjoyed the stories of everyone's winter break, we practiced calligraphy, and we ate the traditional *mochi* (sticky rice cake).



*Yosakoi* folk dance together!



Thank you to the Japanese exchange students for your expertise in cooking authentic Japanese sauce for *mochi*!

